

NOVEMBER 16, 1976

VIETNAM'S U.N. BID AND THE U.S. VETO

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES THE UNITED STATES VETO OF VIETNAM'S BID FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP.

VOICE: THE AMERICAN VETO CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE RECORD OF VIETNAM'S EFFORTS TO BE ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS. STATED BRIEFLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATEDLY MADE ITS POSITION CLEAR -- VIETNAM FALLS SHORT OF SUCH ACCEPTANCE AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN THE VIETNAM WAR. THERE ARE SOME EIGHT HUNDRED OF THESE AMERICANS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR, DESPITE PERSISTENT EFFORTS BY WASHINGTON TO GET THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO PASS ON WHAT INFORMATION IT HAS ON THEIR FATE. THERE ARE ALSO SOME FIFTEEN HUNDRED AMERICAN SERVICE-MEN WHO ARE PRESUMED DEAD BY WASHINGTON -- BUT THE LOCATION OF THEIR REMAINS AND CONFIRMATION OF THEIR DEATHS IS STILL LACKING FROM HANOI.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE IT CLEAR ON OTHER OCCASIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH RESUMED BRIEFLY LAST WEEK THAT INFORMATION ON THE MISSING IN ACTION IS ESSENTIAL TO NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HANOI.

AMBASSADOR (WILLIAM) SCRANTON INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INFLEXIBLE AS TO VIETNAM'S EVENTUAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS. THAT COULD COME, HE IMPLIED, IF VIETNAM GIVES CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF ITS INTENTION OF LIVING UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER'S PROVISIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. VIETNAM'S PERFORMANCE ON THE ISSUE OF THE AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION RAISES SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THAT INTENT. INSTEAD, AS WASHINGTON PERCEIVES VIETNAM'S PERFORMANCE ON THIS ISSUE, HANOI IS USING THE DEEP ANGUISH OF THE MISSING MEN'S FAMILIES IN AN EFFORT TO

OBTAIN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GAINS. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR SCRANTON SAID, IF AND WHEN VIETNAM ABANDONS THAT EFFORT AND DEMONSTRATES IT IS WILLING TO LIVE UP TO ITS CHARTER OBLIGATIONS, THE UNITED STATES WILL RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON VIETNAM'S U.N. APPLICATION.

THE AMERICAN POSITION WAS FORESHADOWED LAST MONTH BY PRESIDENT FORD IN HIS PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHEN HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD VETO VIETNAM'S APPLICATION IF IT CAME UP FOR A VOTE AT THIS TIME. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER IMMEDIATELY ENDORSED MISTER FORD'S POSITION.

IN FACT, THE ISSUE OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN VIETNAM IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE -- IT CUTS RIGHT ACROSS PARTY LINES IN THE EMOTIONS IT AROUSES IN THIS COUNTRY. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN EVIDENCE IN THE PAST THAT THEY HAVE INFORMATION ON THE MISSING MEN, BUT ARE WITHHOLDING IT.

BUT VIETNAM ON MONDAY INDICATED THAT IT HAS MISSED THIS POINT OF AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. ITS REPRESENTATIVE, SPEAKING BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL, REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THE FORD ADMINISTRATION AS IF IT WERE ALONE IN OPPOSING VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP BID.

(OPT) THIS SUGGESTS ONE OF TWO THINGS--AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO MISREPRESENT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE, OR ABSOLUTE OBTUSENESS ON THE PART OF VIETNAM IN RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH A DIVISION IS NON-EXISTENT.(END OPT)

(OPT) THERE'S MORE THAN AN ELEMENT OF IRONY, OF COURSE, IN SOVIET AND CHINESE CHARGES MONDAY OF AMERICAN IRRESPONSIBILITY IN CASTING ITS VETO. THE SOVIET UNION HAS DONE SO FIFTY-ONE TIMES IN THE PAST -- IT STILL HOLDS THE U.N. RECORD. AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS NOT HESITATED TO USE THE VETO WHENEVER THE SPIRIT MOVED IT--AS IN THE CASE OF BANGLADESH IN 1972.(END OPT)

AT ANY RATE, IT IS STILL UP TO VIETNAM TO CHANGE ITS POSITION BY FULFILLING THE OBLIGATIONS THE U.N. CHARTER IMPOSES ON THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.